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STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH.

and
of the
SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

for the
year ended

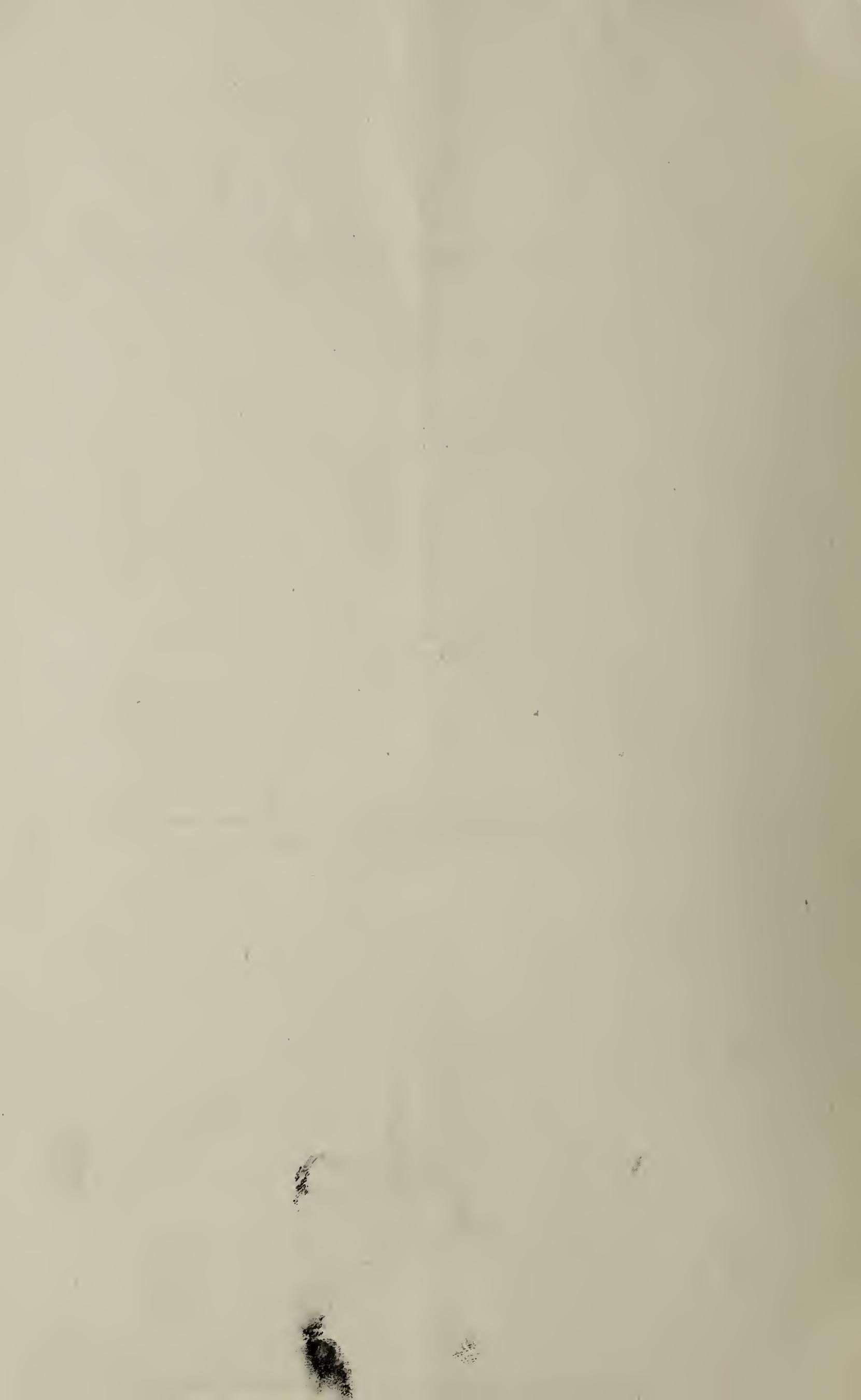
31st DECEMBER 1946.

G. S. MITHER, Medical Officer of
Health.

H. E., Ch. F. (Aberd.), J. P. H. (Cantab)

Geo. W. Brown, Sanitary Inspector &
Surveyor.

A. R. S. H., Certificate Meat Inspector.



Gentlemen

I have the honour to present my report on the health and vital statistics of your area, for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

Estimated population of your district: 7,456

Extracts from Vital Statistics

	Males	Females	Total	Birth Rate
Live Births :- Legitimate	83	72	155	21.6
Illegitimate	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	
	87	74	161	
Still Births :- Legitimate	3	1	4	
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	
Infantile Deaths:-	Males	Females		
Legitimate	1	6		
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>		
	Total	2	6	

Rate per 1,000 births - 50

The birth rate of 21.6 per 1,000 of the population in your district compares favourably with a rate of 19.1 for the country as a whole.

In 1938, the last year for which a comprehensive annual report was compiled, the birth rate in your district was only 12.8.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 50 compares with one of 65 in 1938. It is still too high for a rural area, the rate for England and Wales being 43.

Cont'd

CAUSES OF DEATH	Males	Females
Bronchitis.....	5	1
Pneumonia.....	2	2
Other respiratory diseases.....	1	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	2	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years.....	1	1
Appendicitis.....	-	1
Other digestive diseases.....	1	1
Prem. birth.....	2	3
conj. mal; birth inj; infant dis;	2	2
Suicide.....	2	2
Other violent causes.....	-	4
All other causes.....	6	5
Total.....	38	46

Death rate 11.3 per 1,000.

A death rate of 11.3 per 1,000 compares with one of 11.5 per 1,000 for England and Wales. One would have expected it to be higher as the age incidence in your district is accentuated towards the later decades of life, so many young adults leave the rural areas for work in towns.

DISEASE	NOTIFIABLE DISEASES:		Cases removed to hospital	Deaths
	Cases	Notified		
Scarlet Fever.....	20		15	1
Diphtheria.....	9		9	1
Pneumonia.....	12		1	4
Erysipelas.....	2		2	1
Meningitis.....	1		2	1
Measles.....	31		2	1
Whooping Cough.....	7		-	1
Total	82		25	4

	Age Groups of Attack.										Total
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	
Scarlet Fever	1	-	1	3	1	12	4	1	1	1	20
Diphtheria	1	1	-	-	1	5	1	-	1	-	9
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	3	1	12
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Meningitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Measles	-	4	5	3	2	15	2	1	1	1	31
Whooping Cough	1	1	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	7
										Total	82

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-15	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1 (age unknown)
25-35	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-45	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45-55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-60 & over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	2	4	1	-	2	-	-	1

In the last complete year before the war, 56 cases of infectious disease were notified.

This year, 82 have occurred. The increase is more than accounted for by the Measles and Whooping Cough cases which were not notifiable in 1938.

It is regrettable that 9 cases of Diphtheria occurred. None of these had been immunised, but fortunately we had no deaths. It will be noted that all these patients were treated in hospital.

During the year 20 children were immunised, a small proportion of those who should have been.

Water Supply and Drainage;
Closet Accommodation,
Public Cleansing,
Camping Sites,
Eradication of Bed Bugs,
Housing,
are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector in his report.

Fever Hospital Arrangements,

Cases of infectious disease were admitted to the West Hartlepool Isolation Hospital and Stockton Isolation Hospital. Middlesbrough Corporation have agreed to admit to their Smallpox Hospital such cases as may require admission. Tuberculosis, Maternity & Child Welfare, and Treatment Centres are administered by the County Council.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

A district Nurse is stationed at Greatham. She ministers

to an area stretching from Wolviston to Graythorpe. She is employed by a voluntary Nursing Association which is helped financially by the County Council. A similar body maintain a Nurse at Hart. Her area comprises Elwick, Stotfold, Dalton Piercy and Hart.

Midwives:

Both the Nurses are Certified Midwives, and they are the only midwives in the district.

Laboratory Facilities:

Pathological specimens are examined by and reported on by the staff of the Armstrong College of Medicine.

Ambulance Facilities:

Fever cases are removed to Hospital at the Council's expense. Other types of patients must find their own means of transport.

In common with other authorities we had an "epidemic" of squatting in disused military camps. Remembering the difficulties we had with a similar type of problem at the Seaton Snook area after the 1914/18 war, I deemed it advisable to augment the Sanitary Inspector's staff to take especial care of this now problem.

Accordingly, an assistant of the works foreman type was engaged, with your permission, to make frequent tours of those camps.

To this constant supervision of those encampments I attribute our comparative immunity from serious epidemic.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) G.S.Mather.

M.B., Ch.B. (Aberd.), D.P.H. (Cantab.).
Medical Officer of Health.

WATER SUPPLY:

With few exceptions water is supplied throughout the area by the Tees Valley Water Board and the Hartlepools Gas & Water Company; and these supplies have been unrestricted and of good quality. No shortage of water occurred during the year in the villages of Dalton Piercy and Elwick, whose supplies are derived from the village pumps.

DRAINS & SEWERS:

Generally these have been satisfactory throughout the district. New lengths of sewers have been constructed at Greatham, Preston and Egglecliff; a length of trunk sewer at Greatham, which will be part of the main trunk to be constructed, stopped minor floodings which have taken place in previous years whenever the storms were very severe.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The Carlton Sewage works are working satisfactorily, and it is hoped that new works at Greatham, Long Newton, Elwick, Thorpe Thewles, Whitton and Hart can be constructed this year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

In this area the collection of refuse is done by the Council's own employees in all the parishes excepting part of Greatham and Carlton, which is done by private contractors. The lack of spare parts when the vehicle breaks down causes difficulty at times, and a further vehicle has been ordered.

CAMPING SITES.

Number of sites which were used for camping purposes 1946	Nil.
Number of sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.	5
Estimated number of campers resident in the area during the summer season	Nil.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of Council Houses infested	Nil.
Number of other houses infested	3
Number of other houses disinfested	3

The method employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs is that of stripping walls, taking off doors, skirting boards and picture rails and spraying with Zaldecide. The work is carried out by the Local Authority. No supervision or education

of tonants to prevent infestation has been found necessary.

BUILDINGS.

During the year 56 permanent houses have been built by the Local Authority:-

24 at Egglescliffe, 8 at Greatham, and 24 at Preston-on-Tees; A furthor 74 are in course of erection;

Private builders have completed 10 houses;

Military camps in the various parishes have been occupied by squatters; and adaptations and repairs have been, and are being, carried out to make the huts reasonably fit for habitation.

